

Message Text

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PAGE 01 GABORO 02537 120601Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 IO-13 ISO-00 HA-05 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05
H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02
SS-15 ICA-11 /082 W
-----071215 120604Z /23

P R 111342Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIOCITY 2915
INFO AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMCONSUL DURBAN
USMISSION GENEVA
AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 2537

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: SHUM PINT BC SF
SUBJ: ANGLICAN DEAN'S DETENTION IN SOUTH AFRICA

REF: (A) PRETORIA 4592, (B) GABORONE 2458

1. ANGLICAN DEAN MICHAEL MOLALE TELEPHONE ME AUG 9. HE SAID HE WAS CALLING FROM BED WHERE HE WAS RECOVERING FROM -"13 DAYS OF INTERROGATION" BUT ADDED THAT HE DID NOT WANT TO WAIT ANY LONGER BEFORE THANKING US FOR OUR "ASSISTANCE". HE INTENDED TO COME TO THE EMBASSY WHEN HIS HEALTH PERMITTED TO EXPLAIN WHY HE WAS GRATEFUL.

2. IN REPLY I EXPRESSED PLEASURE AT HEARING FROM HIM AND IN LEARNING THAT OUR INQUIRIES ABOUT HIS WELLBEING MIGHT HAVE BEEN HELPFUL. I NOTED THAT WE HAD HEARD OF HIS DETENTION ONLY VERY LATE AUG 6 AND THAT SILENCE HAD SURROUNDED THE ENTIRE AFFAIR WHICH LEFT US WITH A FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS.

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3. MOLALE REITERATED THAT HE WOULD COME IN AND REVIEW EVENTS WHEN HIS HEALTH HAD IMPROVED ("THE BODY IS WEAK"), BUT LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT EXPRESSIONS OF INTEREST AND CONCERN HAD BEEN HELPFUL.

4. COMMENT: DISCUSSIONS WITH MINEXTAFF OFFICIALS HERE DRAMATICALLY CONFIRM THE AUTONOMOUS ROLE OF SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE,

E.G., AS LATE AS MONDAY MORNING, AUG 7, MINEXTAFF PERMSEC MPOTOKWANE, TELEPHONED MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIAL IN PRETORIA WHO SAID THEY (MFA) HAD NO INFORMATION ON DEAN MOLALE'S WHEREABOUTS. MPOTOKWANE SAID HE COULD HELP: DEAN MOLALE WAS HELD BY SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE AT JOHN VORSTER SQUARE. THE NORMALLY IMPASSIVE MPOTOKWANE COMMENTED THAT THIS ILLUSTRATED THE DOMINATION OF SA POLICE AND CONFIRMED THE UNCERTAINTY THAT BATSWANA EXPERIENCE TRAVELING IN SOUTH AFRICA. IT ALSO UNDERLINES THE POINT EXPRESSED IN FINAL SENTENCE OF REF A, ABOUT THE EASE WITH WHICH PEOPLE CAN DISAPPEAR WITHOUT A TRACE.

5. TO SET THE RECORD STRAIGHT, MOLALE IS A CITIZEN OF BOTSWANA, A FAIRLY RECENT DEVELOPMENT.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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